

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action dated August 8, 2006.

For the following reasons this amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case passed to issue. No new matter or considerations are introduced by this Amendment.

Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, to place it in condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 were withdrawn. Claims 7-10 and 13-20 were rejected. Claims 11 and 12 were objected to. Claim 11 has been amended in this response. Claims 1-10 and 13-20 have been canceled in this response.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-10 and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al.¹

These rejections are traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested. This rejection is moot, as claims 7-10 and 13-20 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. In accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 11 and claim 12, which depends from claim 11, are allowable. The remaining claims, 1-10 and 13-20, have been canceled. Because only allowable claims 11 and 12 remain pending in this application, this application is in condition for allowance.

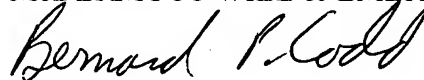
¹ In the Office Action claims 7-10 and 13-17, and 18-20 were rejected in two separate rejections as obvious in view of Nakamura et al.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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